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African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/196, and consistent with the needs of African countries in the field of crime prevention and strengthened criminal justice systems for good governance and consolidation of the rule of law, the present report describes the measures being taken by the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to provide the needed technical assistance to African countries through its substantive programmes and activities developed to support States in the region in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. The report also contains information on the details of the efforts of the Institute to mobilize regional capacities and institutional collaboration as effective support mechanisms for practical intervention measures in Africa. In the report, the governance and management of the Institute are examined, and measures taken to initiate and maintain international cooperation and partnerships as opportunities for funding and support are described. The report also contains information on the future of the Institute as a unique promoter of socio-economic development in the region through crime prevention initiatives and on practical measures aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the Institute.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/196. It outlines the programmes and operations of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders aimed at consolidating the momentum of action plans in the promotion of practical measures to combat crime in Africa. The report also describes the unique crime problem faced by African countries, outlines explicit proposals for mobilizing the resources needed to address the situation and the course of action taken by the Institute in offering technical support to relevant authorities as they cope with their national as well as regional crime problems. Further proposals for coordinating the necessary collaboration among partners for the implementation of the Institute's programmes are set out. The report describes the universal nature of crime trends and the general vulnerability they impose on the development of African countries, invariably calling for remedial measures based on shared values and collective action. The activities described in the report highlight the importance of the emerging partnership between the Institute, its member States and the international crime prevention network, emphasizing the significance of local, regional and international initiatives for the strengthening of crime prevention efforts. The report also underscores the growing significance of empirical scientific knowledge, local resources and selected traditional practices as core ingredients in improving capacity for effective crime prevention and management of criminal justice systems. The report emphasizes the need to incorporate crime prevention safeguards in national planning processes for sustained socio-economic development.

2. The period under review was a time of daunting challenges manifested in waves of organized crime that stretched across the African continent. Criminal activities became entrenched in the systems of social services and management of public utilities, facilitated by factors such as corruption, deficient rule of law, civil unrest, food insecurity, unemployment and poor economic performance, all of which have serious implications for the stability of the region. These challenges have caused considerable disruption to civil society and raised legitimate fears about lawlessness and insecurity in the Africa region. This situation requires a coordinated international response calling for common strategies and customized intervention measures by relevant crime prevention networks, based on threat assessments to address specific vulnerabilities of individual countries.

3. The Institute continues to receive crime reports indicating that, besides bearing the effects of the conventional realm of crime problems, Africa is disproportionately facing various internationally generated challenges. At the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, an assessment of the progress made by African countries towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals reflected serious concerns about their low human development index rankings. There is sufficient reason to attribute the low rankings to the prevalence of crime, which is responsible in large measure for targets being missed. Although a review of the targets was deemed necessary, the current downturn that has affected the major economies of the world has caused legitimate concerns about a considerable negative impact on the economies of Africa, which are largely connected to the developed countries through trade and aid packages. It will require specifically designed austerity programmes to safeguard the economies of Africa from the effects of low

performance resulting from the global economic crunch. With the volatile crime situation in the region, this phenomenon has the potential for aggravated vulnerability. The challenges posed by crime require pragmatic and innovative remedial measures based on the unique experiences of each region.

4. Another challenge that is increasingly manifest in Africa is the pollution of the environment. The ultimate impact has been disastrous climate change in African countries, severely affecting agricultural production, as well as the unique and diverse potential for tourism, essential for national revenue. This has in turn aggravated national food security problems. Food security is considered a requirement for national stability and development. Therefore, food scarcity represents a threat of political instability. This can undermine the attainment of planned targets for social growth and encourage criminal activities. While there are initiatives at the regional and international levels to address the impact of acute climate change on their national stability, African countries are still vulnerable to exploitation by fraudulent actors. Significantly, the lack of modern green technology to assist African countries in coping with the effects of climate change exposes them further to the loss of ecological resources such as wildlife, timber and other flora and fauna and to criminal activities such as smuggling of persons and goods and illicit drug trafficking. It is anticipated that the combination of those factors may give rise to rampant crime in Africa, calling for focused initiatives. The existing criminal justice system in most African countries does not have sufficiently skilled personnel and infrastructure and is therefore not suited to manage the emergence of new crime trends.

5. There is a growing recognition that crime and poverty are interrelated. In the search for effective measures to eradicate poverty and the threat it poses to the standards of living, Africa is progressively becoming linked to the regional and international mechanisms for the generation and fair distribution of wealth. The current debate centres on the balance between developing industrial production and supporting agricultural raw material inputs to make value-added products. The private sector has been identified as a viable medium to stimulate economic growth, the benefits of which are expected to translate into poverty eradication. However, the process of creating economically conducive environments for investment through the provision of incentives to attract economic ventures often becomes difficult because of lengthy and flawed bureaucratic procedures, which are susceptible to manipulation by criminal groups that eventually act to misappropriate the proceeds of nascent investments. Further, the spillover effects of faltering State formation processes in the various regions of Africa have facilitated the emergence of new trends in organized crime, such as extremism and a resurgence of piracy off the East African coast. This can further be exploited to undermine the development of investments in the region, adversely affecting prospects for economic growth, which depends on good governance and the rule of law.

6. The weak laws and existing justice systems undermine efforts to facilitate the prosecution of new crime trends. The situation is further complicated by factors such as uncontrolled population growth, high illiteracy rates, low levels of technical and management skills, poor infrastructure, uncontrolled emigration patterns, limited financial resources and weak institutional capacities, all of which pose formidable challenges for any possible meaningful investment in Africa. Moreover,

there are competing alternative opportunities available elsewhere, making the attainment of social development more elusive.

7. As part of the wider global effort to combat crime, the Institute's programme of activities makes the needs of Member States the focus for intervention. It emphasizes the need to create necessary coalitions with all partners in the process of achieving effective crime prevention policies. This process will be realized through wide consultations with professional bodies, civil society organizations and government departments to provide a united, coherent response to the threat posed by crime. As a necessary strategy, measures are in place for strengthening institutional pillars of integrity, such as the judiciary, law enforcement and prosecution, through capacity-building, the collection and sharing of data, research for risk assessment and the provision of technical support. The Institute will continue to play a leading role in sourcing and providing technical assistance to enhance the capacity of African countries for effective crime prevention. The Institute's programmes in this respect are strengthened by specific regional initiatives such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) regional programme for the period 2009-2011, which emphasizes the role of institutional intervention and the Revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012), aimed at encouraging Member States to participate in and own the regional initiatives for effective crime prevention, good governance and strengthened justice administration.

II. Governance and management

A. Governing Board

8. The fourth extraordinary session of the Governing Board of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was held in Nairobi on 2 March 2009. It was attended by Cameroon, the Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, the Sudan and Uganda.

9. At that session, the Board ratified all the decisions it had taken at the preceding session, held in Khartoum in May 2008, focusing on a number of medium- and long-term mobilization measures. The Board noted with concern the low levels of financial contributions received from member States and made commitments in respect of practical measures aimed at improving the collection of outstanding contributions, as well as at sustaining the flow of financial remittances from member States. It directed the Institute to customize its programme of activities to the needs of member States and to sensitize high-profile authorities in each country to the relevance of the programmes planned for them as a measure for improving the visibility of the Institute among all African States. It was envisaged that this would appeal to countries and partners, and possibly increase the Institute's membership. In that regard, the Board urged the Institute to consider focusing on specific and general vulnerabilities of each country and to maximize the use of available initiatives to address crime problems with the existing funds.

10. The Board approved far-reaching proposals to boost the image of the Institute and to intensify its fund-raising efforts. Through specified frameworks, working committees with precise action plans were established to launch special initiatives

to approach African countries and attract their support for the Institute. In this respect, an African ministerial conference is scheduled to be convened in November 2009, during which practical measures aimed at rallying enough support for the Institute to operate at an optimal level, including the possibility of raising the threshold of member States' financial contributions, will be discussed.

11. With regard to the precarious financial situation of the Institute, the Board noted that the Governments of Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, the Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania had fulfilled their commitments to pay their financial contributions. The representatives of the Governments of Cameroon and Malawi stated that the financial contributions of their Governments would be received shortly after the session; the contribution from Malawi has already been received. Other measures for increased support considered by the Board included the use of political networks to encourage member States to pay their contributions and to urge others to become members of the Institute; continued sensitization and lobbying of African countries at regional ministerial conferences; and mobilization visits to various African capitals. In this regard, the Institute was informed of the commitment of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support its activities, following the visit of the Director to Kinshasa in February 2009.

12. At the fourth extraordinary session, the Governing Board approved the programme of work of the Institute and thanked the General Assembly, UNODC and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network; regional bodies such as the African Union Commission; and the private sector for the assistance provided to the Institute in the implementation of several activities. The Board also appreciated the opportunities for collaboration premised on the existing cooperation with civil society organizations and tertiary institutions and universities. The Board noted that in its resolution 63/196 the General Assembly had commended the Institute for its efforts to promote and coordinate regional technical cooperation activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice.

13. With regard to the long-term measures involving real estate investments, the Board noted with satisfaction the assurances given by the Government of Uganda that, in total support of this venture, it was preparing to issue the property deeds to the Institute shortly after the session. In that connection, the Board appointed the Government of Uganda to spearhead the search for real estate developers and development partners to fund the envisaged project on the Institute's premises.

B. General direction and management

14. As crime continues to hinder the development goals of African countries, the Institute has continued to address emerging concerns about strategic interests to sustain their socio-economic development. Importantly, this has involved the need to combat crime and its destabilizing effects on local communities, as well as to improve available opportunities for productivity and the creation of wealth. Crime trends are becoming increasingly dynamic in nature and imposing considerable obstructions to the attainment of sustained socio-economic development in Africa, thus having a negative impact on the stability of communities.

15. The main focus of the programme activities of the Institute has been on building a self-sustaining minimum capacity to identify, control and prevent the

emergence of criminal activity. In its preliminary efforts to achieve this, the Institute is continuing to assess the needs of African countries in identified areas of vulnerability. In some countries in Africa where threat assessments have been attempted, it has been acknowledged that the challenges encountered have been a consequence mainly of a deficiency of resources with which to realize a meaningful crime prevention strategy. Similarly, attempts to strengthen criminal justice systems have suffered from a glaring lack of facilitation, at the prosecution and adjudication level and in the correctional and rehabilitation system.

16. The activities carried out by the Institute during the period under review focused on the coupling of diverse views from all sectors of society with the technical support of specialized agencies and other partners at the national, regional and international levels. Through collaboration with local and international sources of expertise, the Institute has benefited from the support of the following entities: UNODC, civil society organizations, professional and academic organizations, the mass media and local authorities. The Institute has also continued to cooperate with agencies in various African countries whose mandate is the promotion of crime prevention and criminal justice in Africa. The Institute has increasingly become involved in the implementation of regional programmes in collaboration with UNODC and other partners. It plans to seek further opportunities for collaboration with other agencies as a means to reach out to more Member States.

III. Substantive programmes and activities

A. Overview

17. Crime prevention does not generally appear to have priority as a national concern in most of Africa: it is not sufficiently scaled up in mainstream strategies for social development. Owing to the inadequacy of resources, crime prevention competes unevenly with other national concerns. Specific investments aimed at promoting crime prevention are lacking in the management of public affairs. Rather, it is the impact of crime that appears to draw the attention of relevant authorities and result in reactive measures. The weaknesses in crime prevention lead to subsequent difficulties at the level of crime control mechanisms.

18. On the basis of needs assessments, the availability of resources and the sensitization of countries to the importance of international conventions to address crime problems, the programme activities of the Institute have received not only the approval of the Governing Board, but also overtures of active collaboration from Member States and partners. Other regional initiatives that are relevant to specific threats to African countries are also applicable. Through the sharing of experiences at the regional level and on the basis of regional cooperation, a strategy that has largely been found suitable and effective, the Institute has been able to respond to several countries' needs within its limited resources. Events have demonstrated that most African countries are fertile ground for the entrenchment of criminal activity. There is a consensus that even though the countries in the Africa region have different political, economic and historical backgrounds, they all face similar threats posed by drugs and other crime trends, and that these threats can be tackled only through a unified regional response. The Institute's programme of activities

addresses a comprehensive schedule of needs in accordance with national and regional priorities.

B. Project activities

19. The main projects carried out by the Institute are described below. The funds received from member States for the period under review have made the implementation of the programme of activities possible. Guided by the resolution of the Governing Board and supported by General Assembly resolution 63/196, all the activities have been implemented on a cost-sharing basis between the member States, partners, including UNODC, and the Institute.

20. The projects focus on carrying out research, strengthening cooperation, disseminating information and providing technical assistance in capacity-building, emphasizing training and the collection, analysis and utilization of crime data for the development of remedial strategies and effective policy.

1. Research

(a) "From prison back home" project

21. The "From prison back home" project is a human rights-based intervention initiative, founded on the principles of social work and the involvement of prison authorities and local community members, aimed at promoting the social rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in African countries. It has now become a cornerstone reference in the training sessions and exchange of good practices for correctional authorities, as well as being instrumental in the envisaged penal reform proposals in African countries. It focuses on the realities of communities and the value of available local resources. It offers a good opportunity for empowering local communities to assert their authority to regulate locally approved social control measures for problematic situation resolution and to make valuable contributions to the process of social rehabilitation and reintegration of former prisoners. The project further profiles local communities as a nucleus for wider regional harmony and security and enables them to become vital tools to fight recidivism. Following requests from the Governments of Burundi, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania to introduce the project, in May 2009 the Institute started a series of short courses for relevant personnel to strengthen the principles promoted by the project. The first module of the courses has been concluded, and certificates were awarded to the participants from the above-mentioned countries. The courses will be replicated in other regions of Africa and include as many countries as possible.

(b) Evaluation study of alternative dispute resolution systems in Rwanda

22. It is generally acknowledged that African correctional facilities are faced with deficiencies in relation to effective rehabilitation of inmates. Prison overcrowding is cited as one of the manifestations of flawed processes of criminal justice administration. Out of concern regarding the escalating costs of managing prisons and the ineffectiveness of existing rehabilitation efforts, the consideration of arrangements for alternative dispute resolution measures has taken centre stage in several African countries. The existing traditional justice systems largely favour the

mediation/reconciliation strategy. In situations of severe suspicion about the impartiality of the conventional criminal justice systems, continued conflict and retribution (in such forms as mob justice) are likely to prevail. In such a situation it is crucial to adopt practical, tailored initiatives that require the application of non-conventional mechanisms for administering justice, including traditional justice systems. Equally important is the need to give due attention to cultural sensitivities in the process. In the training courses at the Institute, all available alternative dispute resolution systems are explored through the free exchange of information.

23. The Institute is finalizing arrangements with partners that will include funding and facilitation for the implementation of the evaluation study of the *gacaca* system of dispensing justice in Rwanda. Consistent with its programme to develop and promote innovative projects that meet the needs of member States experiencing challenges in the implementation of effective criminal justice strategies, the Institute has embarked on a fact-finding consultative mission with the relevant authorities in Kigali. This evaluation will have a necessary connection with the earlier "From prison back home" study, the findings of which are expected to have wider implications for reforms in the criminal justice systems of several African countries.

(c) Impact assessment of community service orders in Kenya

24. The Institute received a request from the Government of Kenya for technical assistance to evaluate its programme of community service and after-care services. In response, discussions with the Kenyan Probation and After Care Services authorities have been initiated, and an impact-assessment visit was made by a delegation from Kenya to Uganda in June 2009 for necessary consultations and an exchange of information and experiences to identify good practices. Modalities for the evaluation of the community service programme, focusing on the prospects of extending technical assistance in capacity-building, as well as action-oriented research and information-sharing within the region, were emphasized in the discussions. Importantly, penal reform will represent a significant part of the technical assistance to help countries in the region to address the challenges of cross-border crime. Realistic practices for bail terms to reduce overcrowding, centring on initiatives that promote non-custodial sentences based on relevant traditional African practices, will be encouraged.

(d) Cyberwatch project

25. The search for partnerships to implement a wider awareness-raising campaign for more countries is ongoing. Several professional organizations and government departments have indicated interest. Building on the sensitization programme undertaken in Kampala and widely publicized through the media, the Institute is gradually developing a strong network to promote efforts aimed at fighting cybercrime. It is anticipated that through such a mechanism, the project will be replicated effectively in all subregions at little cost to all parties involved.

(e) Transnational trafficking in persons in Nigeria

26. The reports about the study conducted in Nigeria on strategies to curb transnational trafficking in human beings were launched in February 2009. The occasion of the launch was used to mobilize an effective network of partners in West Africa, including exploring opportunities for institutional capacity to

implement the follow-up of recommendations and proposals outlined in the report. The follow-up efforts emphasize the use of UNODC tools (such as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children) and technical assistance to be provided by the Institute to facilitate the promotion of international conventions through appeals to countries to align their domestic legislation with international conventions.

(f) Study on trafficking in children

27. The study on the emerging trend of trafficking in children in Uganda has contributed to the current efforts by the authorities in Uganda to enhance public debate and make relevant legislation to curb human trafficking. This legislation has been hinged on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, with specific reference to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Since its launch in July 2008, the report has attracted the attention of relevant civil society organizations, the media and legislative personnel in wide consultations on the proposals advanced. Efforts are emerging in respect of the need for forming a coalition against human trafficking, through the institutional frameworks, whose task will include raising awareness about trafficking in persons, punishing the criminals involved and preventing the scourge.

(g) Country profile project

28. In emphasizing the significance of the management of data, including the collection of empirical statistics, the Institute continues to maintain an updated database of crime-related statistics on Africa. The database has been useful in the recently received enquiries regarding resource persons and focal contacts in a number of African countries for the workshop entitled "Crime statistics: collection and analysis of data and trends in drugs, crime and victimization", which was held from 9 to 12 December 2008 in Addis Ababa, and the Expert Group Meeting on Crime Data Collection and Analysis, held from 28 to 30 January 2009 in Vienna. In all meetings and workshops, the difficulties of obtaining statistics in Africa have been blamed on the lack of strong institutional capacity to manage data professionally. The country profile project is an attempt to build capacity in African countries to preserve and utilize crime data for the assessment of threats and the development of policy and legislation in the process of combating crime. In order to fill in the gap, a course on data generation and use has been incorporated in training for law enforcement officers.

(h) Victimization survey

29. Having submitted to UNODC the report containing the findings of the pilot survey on crime trends in Uganda, the Institute awaits the outcome of the consideration of the implementation of the next phase. On the basis of the findings of the study, relevant mechanisms for intervention and policymaking at the regional and/or international level will be submitted to the appropriate authorities, with concrete proposals for action. With the agreement of UNODC, the Institute intends to organize a local experts' follow-up meeting with the relevant authorities in Uganda. A similar meeting may be organized in countries, such as Rwanda, that have participated in the surveys.

(i) Extradition and mutual legal assistance

30. Following wide consultations with various partners, the schedule of activities leading to an implementation programme for the project on extradition and mutual legal assistance is being considered. The Institute is currently updating the instrument for receiving current information for the database on the status of available legislation and existing arrangements among countries. The Institute has made an informal approach to the relevant authorities at the United States Department of Justice for a discussion on the status of the two draft conventions on extradition and mutual legal assistance, emphasizing emerging developments that have taken place in respect of their delayed finalization.

2. Training

(a) Short courses for improving criminal justice systems

31. In response to requests received from Member States, and after extensive consultations with correctional authorities, the Institute put together the elements of the first module of short courses for correctional and other officers in Africa. The programme and content of the scheduled training focused on the nature of reported concerns, taking into account the principle of sharing good practices and the sociocultural realities of each country and subregion. The course provided participants with current knowledge and skills needed in the general management of prisons, including the psychosociological analysis of the prisoner in Africa, and modern approaches for a successful social rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners. The course also imparted:

(a) Basic skills for project proposal writing for fundable projects in prisons;

(b) Insight into techniques, for the generation and use of data in conducting research;

(c) A general appreciation of and knowledge for the implementation of regional and international instruments, such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Lilongwe Declaration and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

32. The course started in May 2009, at the secretariat of the Institute, for the pioneering group comprising Burundi, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda. Participants had the opportunity to interact with their colleagues and share experiences, exchange information based on good practices and identify practical solutions to challenges they face. Facilitators for the course were drawn from a cross-section of professional organizations and practising disciplines, including lawyers, prosecutors, correctional personnel and human rights advocates, a result of the network of partners that the Institute has developed.

33. It is expected that the course will be replicated in all the other regions of Africa, including other modules for personnel in the criminal justice system, such as the police, prosecutors, the judiciary and related professions. Arrangements to this effect have been started with relevant authorities, including the President of the African Correctional Services Association, the Commissioner of the Zambia Prison Services and Samuel Nkouli of Washington and Lee University.

(b) Training workshops on parole, probation and community corrections

34. Following the finalization of the training schedule of workshops in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia in the area of correctional reform in late 2007, the Institute is now focusing on including more countries in this capacity-building effort. Arrangements are being made with the authorities to draw up an action plan for the implementation of proposals that were made at the workshops in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia with the aim of improving understanding about non-custodial sanctions and promoting such sanctions in Africa. The Institute recently organized a short course for correctional officers from East Africa.

3. Information dissemination

(a) Production of reports and a newsletter

35. As an ongoing activity, the Institute has continued to produce reports on implemented activities that are disseminated to partner agencies and made available online.

(b) Crime prevention journal

36. In respect of the Institute's project to publish on a regular basis the *African Journal on Crime and Criminal Justice*, a compilation of research-based reports addressing crime patterns and prevention measures is currently being developed. The editorial board is also scrutinizing manuscripts for publication in the first edition. The journal would be an additional tool for fostering collaboration with publishers and research institutions and extending the Institute's base of contacts in order to further promote its activities. The research results will be the basis for training relevant personnel, as well as for advisory services to various African governments.

(c) Modernization of the information centre

37. The Institute is continuing with the updating of its online digital library with records of important expert meetings, conferences and visits during which thematic issues relating to crime prevention and criminal justice administration have been discussed. Since the Online Public Access Catalogue facility is accessible worldwide, it is expected to improve the visibility of the Institute to prospective partners. This facility, coupled with the Institute's website, will significantly increase the potential for identifying active collaboration. Efforts are under way for the sourcing of online courses, which will contribute to the Institute's standing as a centre of excellence.

4. Consultancy

38. In order to consolidate the search for effective crime data collection in Africa, the Institute hosted a UNODC consultant from August to December 2008, whose mission was to enhance the value of crime statistics and incorporate the generation and management of data as one the crucial functional operations in African countries. This consultancy was in line with the existing collaboration between the Institute and UNODC and demonstrates the importance of implementing the programme of work in conjunction with all relevant partners.

5. Cooperation

(a) Effective cooperation between the Institute and its partners

39. Significantly, the value of cooperation between countries and improved relations between agencies and individual experts has taken a prominent role in promoting crime prevention strategies. By utilizing available opportunities for collaboration with institutions, the Institute has benefited from its increased visibility at various forums where further opportunities for consolidating existing partnerships, as well as exploring new coalitions, exist. The network of partners of the Institute is crucial for collaboration and the conduct of joint activities in the Africa region.

40. Further, through extensive publicity on events in which the Institute has participated, its chances of widening its contacts with prospective partners have improved. It is hoped that through such improvements, the Institute will succeed in securing the additional technical assistance it needs to meet its obligations.

41. In this regard, and consistent with the relevant resolutions of its Governing Board, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the Institute has the mandate and obligation to undertake programmes with relevant partners, and in cooperation with UNODC, to respond to the needs of African countries in crime prevention and criminal justice. For example, in operative paragraph 5 of its resolution 2007/24, the Economic and Social Council requested "the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and in cooperation with the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to assist African States, upon request, in their efforts to apply the Lilongwe Declaration on Accessing Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System in Africa". Similarly, in operative paragraph 4 it requested "the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, in cooperation with relevant partners, to continue to provide advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in the area of penal reform". Along the same lines is General Assembly resolution 63/196, specifically its operative paragraphs 5 and 8. Thus, the Institute is a focal point for all professional efforts aimed at promoting the active cooperation and collaboration of governments, academics and institutions, as well as scientific professional organizations and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice.

42. The Institute has a consolidated partnership with the Transnational Law Institute of the Washington and Lee University School of Law. Through this collaboration, the latter sent an expert as a resource person to the last Institute course for correctional officers and law enforcement agents in East Africa, held from 4 to 18 May 2009. The course participants benefited significantly from the experts' insights and thoughts on both the African Union and United Nations instruments relevant to the implementation of the Lilongwe Declaration.

43. The expertise provided during the course was based on the experience of the Washington and Lee School of Law in Liberia and was aimed at addressing challenges such as overcrowding, inappropriate infrastructure and long pretrial periods. This knowledge added value to the substance of the course and contributed significantly to its success. Equally important were the assurances of the Washington and Lee School of Law that this fruitful partnership with the Institute

would be consolidated and institutionalized. This is scheduled to be done through specific initiatives such as staff and student exchanges and through the enhancement of the sharing of experiences through videoconferencing and other distance-learning techniques in an effort to impart skills needed to strengthen criminal justice systems in the context of transnational law.

44. Anticipated academic benefits derived from this collaboration with the Institute also include the acquisition by Washington and Lee students of real-life experience on access to justice and penal reform in developing countries. This can be achieved through interactions with students at law schools in Africa, such as the Makerere University School of Law in the context of practicums, similar to what Washington and Lee University has been doing in Liberia with a great deal of success.

(b) Internships

45. There is a growing partnership between the Institute and a number of universities, including Uganda Christian University, Makerere University and Islamic University In Uganda, through which several students have gained postings for internships at the Institute in their areas of specialization.

IV. International cooperation and partnerships

46. The Institute maintains and benefits from its close collaboration with UNODC, agencies in various countries that promote crime prevention and relevant departments of subregional or regional entities such as the African Union Commission, the East African Community, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community. The crucial role of these partnerships and the legitimacy of cooperation have been confirmed by the resolutions of several international forums, including the General Assembly, the Governing Board of the Institute and the African Union, and the Institute continues to explore opportunities for cooperation with other organizations.

47. As part of its efforts to mobilize sufficient capacity to meet the increasing crime prevention needs of its member States, the Institute has established contacts with professional organizations in countries that are promoting not only conventional crime prevention programmes, but related activities such as education; research; dissemination of information; sports, drama and art; advertising; community development; knowledge-based programmes such as those for adult literacy; and gender-based programmes such as those on reproductive health and human rights. The Institute continues to maintain close links with private sector entities, hospitality organizations, the media and the public sector, focusing on the construction/engineering and immigration departments to tap the existing potential to detect the commission of crime and take pre-emptive measures.

48. The Institute was represented at the following national, regional and international meetings:

(a) Tenth session of its Governing Board, Khartoum, 19 and 20 May 2008;

(b) Sixty-third session of the General Assembly, New York, from 20 September 2008;

(c) Economic Commission for Africa-UNODC workshop on crime statistics, Addis Ababa, 9 to 12 December 2008;

(d) Conference on crime victim survey results in Rwanda, Kigali, 18 December 2008;

(e) Course for prosecution authorities in Saudi Arabia, organized and hosted by Naif Arab University of Security Studies, Riyadh, 9 to 14 January 2009;

(f) Regional experts meeting on promoting the rule of law and human security in East Africa, organized by UNODC in conjunction with the Government of Kenya, Nairobi, 2 to 4 February 2009;

(g) Routine meetings for consultations and enhancement of collaboration with the relevant departments of the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, 9 to 12 February 2009;

(h) Fourth extraordinary meeting of the Governing Board, Nairobi, 2 March 2009;

(i) Workshop on promoting community safety through corrections, Abuja, 31 March to 3 April 2009;

(j) Eighteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna, 16 to 24 April 2009.

V. Funding and support

49. The total income of the Institute for the period from January to December 2008 was $593,866.12, a significant increase over the $344,421.59 received in 2007. This increase is attributed to the increased collections from member States in 2008 ($189,249) over those in 2007 ($45,335.89). The sources of the funds were as follows:

(a) Assessed contributions from member States, $189,249 (32 per cent);

(b) The 2008 portion of the United Nations grant, $257,700 (43 per cent);

(c) Other income received from rental of the premises and facilities of the Institute, as well as interest on deposits, $146,917.12 (25 per cent).

50. For the period from January to May 2009, the total resources of the Institute were valued at $394,382 comprising the following:

(a) The 2009 portion of the United Nations grant for the biennium 2008-2009, $115,100, to pay part of the salaries of staff members in the Professional category;

(b) Assessed contributions from member States, $204,224;

(c) Other income from the rental of the Institute's premises, $75,058.

A. Assessed financial contributions from member States

51. During the reporting period, the Institute was able to collect $393,473.01 from the following member States: Burkina Faso ($9,985.04); the Gambia ($5,135); Kenya ($3,603); the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya ($30,072); Malawi ($77,477); Mozambique ($8,600.42); Nigeria ($143,549); the Sudan ($105,250.55); and the United Republic of Tanzania ($9,801).

52. Of the total amount of $5,169,466 expected to be received by the Institute for the period 1989-2009, only $2,236,360 had been received as at 31 May 2009, leaving an outstanding balance of $2,933,106.

53. The issue of arrears of assessed contributions was discussed extensively by the members of the Governing Board at its fourth extraordinary meeting. The Board resolved to enhance the collection of arrears and agreed on a regional initiative spearheaded by designated member States to oversee the mobilization drive in each region, as follows: Kenya was assigned to mobilize the East African countries; the Sudan the North African countries; Nigeria the West African countries; Cameroon the Central African countries; and Malawi the Southern African countries. Pursuant to that resolution, some countries, such as Malawi and the Sudan, have followed up on their promises at the session with payments to clear all their outstanding dues. Some other countries, such as Cameroon, the Gambia and Kenya, have promised to clear their outstanding balances as soon as the processes to that end, which have commenced in their countries, are concluded. Nigeria had earlier paid all its outstanding obligations up to 2008, following the tenth session of the Board.

B. United Nations grant

54. Since the biennium 1992-1993, the Institute has received a grant from the United Nations, which for the biennium 2008-2009, stands at $372,800. However, expenditure incurred in the biennium 2006-2007 revealed that $446,913.97 was needed to cover the salaries of the core Professional posts of the Director, Deputy Director, Research Adviser, Information/Documentation Adviser and Administration/Finance Officer. As can be seen, the grant provided for only part of the salaries of the core staff, equivalent to about 19 months of the required salary payments, while the additional requirements were met from the assessed contributions of member States.

55. In the 2008 report, the Institute reported on the decision of the Board to increase the salaries by 75 per cent in order to bring them to almost half of those of United Nations staff. The total amount needed to pay the salaries of the staff members in the Professional category for the biennium increased to $697,900 (and it has been maintained at the same level even during the biennium 2008-2009). This creates a deficit of $325,100 (current grant value, $372,800, minus total cost of salaries, $697,900).

56. At its tenth session the Governing Board requested the Third Committee to consider recommending an increase in the value of the grant effective from the biennium 2010-2011 to reflect the total salary requirement of $697,900 to cover the salaries of core Professional staff.

C. Other income

57. As anticipated in the previous report (A/63/87, para. 53), the revenue from other income doubled, from $67,405.45 in 2007 to $146,917.12 in 2008. The revenue received was as follows: $131,046.60 from leased premises and $15,870.52 from rented premises.

VI. Future of the Institute

58. In responding to the unprecedented challenges posed by emerging crime trends, the Institute is trying to design innovative and tailored measures and to utilize initiatives available in operational networks. The effort to devise measures to address the crime problem in Africa will be centred on including as many partners in the network as possible. Considering the high-profile nature of crime in African countries, where the capacity to detect and control such crimes is severely limited, it is necessary for the Institute to assert its technical suitability in the provision of visible crime prevention services, through research, capacity-building, information-sharing and consultative missions. The Institute's schedule of activities will increasingly encompass measures ranging from awareness-raising campaigns to customized interventions to sensitize African countries to the danger that crime poses for their stability and prosperity and the need to incorporate, within their development plans, safeguard mechanisms to detect and prosecute crime.

59. However, the major challenge in this respect will be the lack of sufficient financial support, meaning that the relevance of the Institute is liable to the threat of being incapable of meeting the needs of its member States in crime prevention, with a particular focus on strategies for (a) achieving meaningful and sustainable levels of support and (b) improving its visibility by customizing interventions to its member States' needs in crime prevention. The visibility of the Institute also may affect the sources of its support and the strengthening of its own capacity to offer technical support for promoting the rule of law and good governance. While these measures seem to be long-term in nature, it is important that the Institute start on the medium-term arrangements. These will include the maximization of available capacity by creating useful coalitions with regional and local institutions; the use of local resources through practical initiatives such as cost-sharing; and the participation of communities in the process of policy and legislation reforms to strengthen community safety.

60. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/196, the Board, at its fourth extraordinary session, reiterated its appeal to the Institute to strengthen its collaboration with professional bodies and other organizations active in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice for the implementation of activities. The Board commended the increased partnership between the Institute and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. With specific reference to UNODC, the Board expressed satisfaction at the growing levels of collaboration and support given to implement programmes designed and undertaken in cooperation with the Institute. The Board called on the General Assembly to consider reviewing the amount allocated to the Institute through the United Nations grant, which pays for the salaries of the Institute's core staff in the Professional category.

61. In consideration of the precarious financial situation of the Institute, the Board has indicated its willingness to intensify its appeal to potential members to join the Institute. The Board expressed its willingness to assist in convening a conference of African ministers to discuss measures for Improving the flow of resources to the Institute. Such measures would include lobbying for support from international agencies in the countries of origin of the ministers and advocating for increased support from the General Assembly. The Board also expressed the intention to appeal to member States to consider reviewing their own levels of financial contributions to the Institute. In this respect, the Board has appointed a special working committee of its members, tasked specifically with mobilizing support from the authorities in their respective subregions, including the fulfilment of their financial obligations, such as the outstanding arrears due to the Institute.

VII. Conclusion

62. The African continent experiences unique vulnerabilities imposed on it by a wide range of factors. Most of these factors are facilitating the vicious cycle of lawlessness and underdevelopment and, in some instances, even complicating the process of remedial intervention. The impact of crime is continuously being reflected in the unsatisfactory nature of social services provided, in the missed targets of projected national aspirations and goals and in a multiplicity of weaknesses identified in the systems of governance and rule of law. This situation compromises the efforts aimed at sustainable socio-economic development. Given the ever-increasing sophistication of the operations of transnational organized crime, the Africa region is liable to suffer shortfalls in its planned development.

63. An effective crime prevention agenda in Africa requires a pragmatic threat assessment of the existing challenges in order to design a critical evidence-based plan of action and a well-considered programme of activities to address specific needs. This will involve a careful investment in workable measures focused on realistic perspectives for intervention to prosecute crime. Africa's needs for skills and knowledge remain paramount in the crime prevention strategies that will strengthen national capacities to protect populations. Through action-oriented research and empirical, innovative frameworks based on the realities of African countries, the basis for streamlining measures for the prevention of crime will be established. Consequently, the management of public affairs, particularly with reference to crime prevention and criminal justice administration, will become more professional, by utilizing the results of the empirical and policy-oriented research done by the Institute in conjunction with partner agencies and organizations. All attempts at crime prevention should reflect the concerted effort, incorporating all the relevant contributions from all sections of society. On the basis of General Assembly resolution 63/196, specifically its operative paragraphs 5 and 8, there is sufficient reason to consider the Institute a focal point for all professional efforts aiming at promoting the active cooperation and collaboration of governments, academics, institutions and scientific and professional organizations and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice.